

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-03 FEA-01

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R 161621Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9344

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5288

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, IZ

SUBJECT: SADDAM HUSSIM VISIT TO MOSCOW

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

REF: MOSCOW 5231

1. WHILE SOVIET-IRAQI COMMUNIQUE (EXCERPTS TASS ENGLISH WIRE APRIL 15) HAS NOT YET BEEN PUBLISHED HERE, OUTWARD SIGNS SUGGEST THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN'S BRIEF VISIT DID NOT APPRECIABLY IMPROVE SOVIET-IRAQI RELATIONSHIP.

2. OUTWARD INDICATORS WHICH WE THINK SUGGEST VISIT PRODUCED LESS THAN COMPLETE SUCCESS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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A. SADDAM DID NOT SEE BREZHNEV. THIS BREAKS STANDING PATTERN. SADDAM WAS RECEIVED BY BREZHNEV DURING FEBRUARY 1974 AND MARCH 1973 VISITS. OF COURSE IT IS POSSIBLE THAT PREPARATIONS FOR CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM APRIL 16 PREVENTED A MEETING, BUT BREZHNEV COULD CERTAINLY HAVE SQUEEZED SADDAM IN.

B. VISIT WAS EXCEPTIONALLY BRIEF AND ATMOSPHERICS INDICATED NO SPECIAL SOVIET EFFORT TO BUILD IT UP. PRIOR TO SADDAM'S ARRIVAL PRESS AVOIDED ADVANCE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN AND DEVOTED NO MORE THAN USUAL COVERAGE TO IRAQIS DURING THEIR STAY. ATMOSPHERE OF TALKS WAS CHARACTERIZED IN OFFICIAL TASS RELEASES (PRAVDA APRIL 16) AS ONE OF "FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING," SMAE AS ATMOSPHERICS OF SADDAM'S 1974 VISIT BUT A CONSIDERABLE COMEDOWN FROM HIS "COMRADELY" TALKS HERE IN 1973.

C. TANGIBLE RESULTS OF THE VISIT APPEAR MINIMAL. SOVIETS AND IRAQIS SIGNED CONSULAR CONVENTION AND AGREEMENT ON PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY (WHICH WERE PROBABLY PREPARED FOR SIGNATURE DURING BREZHNEV'S ABORTED JANUARY VISIT), THEREBY PROVIDING REQUIRED PAPER TO PROVE THAT SOVIET-IRAQI RELATIONS ARE GROWING. HOWEVER, RELATIVE INSIGNIFICANCE OF DOCUMENTS AS WELL AS GUARDED LANGUAGE ON MIDDLE EAST AND IRAQ-IRAN ACCORD IN COMMUNIQUE EXCERPTS SUGGEST CONSCIOUS EFFORT BY BOTH SIDES TO PUT BEST FACE ON MINIMAL SUBSTANCE.

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